

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT
SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 7
July 7, 2011

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial salmon
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STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook are destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 are considered upper Columbia summer Chinook. These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- TAC met on July 5 and downgraded the Upper Columbia Summer Chinook run size at the river mouth to 77,000.
- As of July 6, 46,572, adult upper Columbia summer Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.

Sockeye

- TAC maintained the pre-season sockeye forecast of 161,900 fish to the Columbia River mouth
- Bonneville Dam passage through July 6 totals 139,699 sockeye. The peak count to date was 11,685 on July 3.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management Agreements

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for treaty and non-treaty summer season fisheries.
- The harvest rate schedule for Chinook was shown in Fact Sheet #1.
- The impact limit on the 2011 Columbia River return ESA listed sockeye is 7% for treaty Indian fisheries.

2011 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Based on the updated forecasts and corresponding ESA impact limits, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated a total of 21,849 adult summer Chinook and 11,333 sockeye.
- Yakama tributary fisheries are also ongoing, which may include the Little White Salmon River (Drano Lake), and the White Salmon, Klickitat, and Icicle rivers. These fisheries do not require Compact action.

- The preliminary harvest in the first three commercial gillnet openings is shown in the table below. An updated projection for this week's fishery based on the last three week's catch is shown also.

Stat Week	Fishery	Days	Nets	Chinook Adults	Steelhead	Sockeye	Sturgeon	Walleye
25	6/16-6/18	2.5	322	4,230	139	602	44	28
26	6/20-6/23	3.5	350	3,390	169	1,324	63	27
27	6/27-6/30	3.5	364	3,335	245	4,515	229	15
	Subtotal			10,955	553	6,441	336	70
28	7/5-7/7 projected	3.5	358	3,400	500	4,500		
	Total			14,355	1,053	10,941		
	Total allowed Harvest			21,849		11,333		
	Remaining			7,494		392		

- Commercial sturgeon catches in Week 27 are shown in the table below.

	Bonneville	The Dalles	John Day
Sturgeon remaining from Winter Gillnet Fishery	337	691	268
Commercial Harvest in Week 27	176	29	24
Remaining sturgeon in Commercial guideline	161	662	244

- The tribes have decided not to propose additional commercial sale of sturgeon at this time but will continue to look for appropriate ways to utilize the remaining commercial allocation of sturgeon in the Zone 6 pools.
- Sockeye catches were higher than anticipated in week 27 and the tribes expect similar catches this week. This puts the tribal fishery very close to the 7% harvest rate limit.
- The tribes will take action to discontinue sales of sockeye caught after 6PM on Sunday July 10 and will impose a minimum mesh size restriction in next week's gillnet fishery. Depending on the actual catch in this week's fishery and the result of the TAC run size update on Monday, the tribes could take additional action relative to sockeye.
- The tribes propose a 4.5 day fishery in an effort to harvest as many of the remaining harvestable summer Chinook as possible.
- The tribes project a harvest of 3,000-3,500 Chinook and 250 sockeye in a 4.5 day fishery next week. The tribes expect lower effort compared to this week's fishery (approximately 275 nets). This would bring the total tribal Chinook harvest to 17,000 to 18,000 Chinook and 11,200 sockeye.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday July 11 to 6 PM Friday July 15	(4.5 days)
Area	Zones 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries apply. No Spring Creek sanctuary is necessary this time of year.	
Gear:	Gill nets with a minimum stretched mesh size of 7.25 inches.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sockeye may not be sold, but may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sales of fish caught during open period gillnet periods are allowed after the end of the open period, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

<i>Treaty Indian Platform and Hook and Line Fisheries</i>		
Season	Unchanged from ongoing fisheries	
Area	Zones 6 and fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Gear	Unchanged from current regulations.	
Changes:	Sockeye harvested after 6PM Sunday may not be sold.	
Updated Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sockeye caught after 6:00 PM Sunday, July 10 may not be sold, but may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon caught in Zone 6 may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. There is no retention of sturgeon in tribal fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish are not allowed on COE property at Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish caught during open period gillnet periods are allowed after the end of the open period, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

- The catch for next week is expected to remain within the treaty harvest limits. Additional weekly openers are anticipated. The tribes will monitor catch and effort to ensure the fishery remains within management limits.
- Commercial gillnet openings are expected weekly throughout the summer season. Effort is expected decrease through the rest of the summer season.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes may request a Compact Hearing on July 14 to consider additional tribal commercial fisheries.